

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02276 281724Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 281555Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2465

S E C R E T CAIRO 2276

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN DISPUTE

REF: CAIRO'S 2258

1. IN TALK WITH AMBASSADOR TODAY, FAHMY RELATED CURRENT GOE-PLO DISPUTE ALONG LINES REPORTED REFTEL. HE NOTED PLO STATEMENT OF FEB 26 HAD BEEN UNUSUALLY VITRIOLIC IN ITS ATTACK ON SADAT FOR CONTINUING TO PURSUE THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH. IT HAD CHARGED THE PRESIDENT AND HIM WITH BETRAYAL OF ARAB INTERESTS. IN EFFORT BROADEN ITS IMPACT, PLO'S DECLARATION HAD NOT BEEN SENT TO ARAB GOVERNMENTS, BUT ADDRESSED TO THE ARAB PEOPLES OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES. IT CONSTITUTED A CLEAR EFFORT TO PRESSURE SADAT INTO JETTISONING THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH OR BE BRANDED TRAITOR TO ARAB CAUSE. LIBYANS, SYRIANS AND SOVIETS ARE INSTIGATING PLO TO DEFAME SADAT.

2. THIS SCURRILOUS ATTACK HAD RILED THE PRESIDENT GREATLY. THUS, WHEN PLO HAD ASKED TO SEND FIVE MEMBER EX-COMM DELEGATION TO CAIRO TO DISCUSS CURRENT MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS, THE PRESIDENT HAD REFUSED TO RECEIVE SUCH A DELEGATION. THROUGH FAHMY, HE SENT BACK WORD HE WOULD RECEIVE ONLY THE ENTIRE EX-COMM. THROUGH THIS TACTIC, FAHMY BELIEVES THAT (A) THE PLO EX-COMM WILL NOT COME AND (B) IF IT DOES, TALKS CAN BE CONDUCTED HERE ON EGYPTIAN RATHER THAN PALESTINIAN TERMS. FAHMY

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ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS BITTER AND OPEN

PALESTINIAN DENUNCIATION IS DEEPLY EMBARRASSING AND POSES
SERIOUS PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM FOR GOE.

3. FAHMY ALSO INDICATED AWARENESS OF CAIRO BASED VOICE
OF PALESTINE ATTACK ON SADAT TWO DAYS AGO. HE ASSERTED
VOP HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCIPLINED. WHILE IT HAS NOT
BEEN CLOSED, IT HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED ON PENALTY OF CLOSURE
TO REFRAIN FROM ALL FURTHER ATTACK ON EGYPT OR ANY OTHER
COUNTRY.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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